



Lehman

Annual Report

**On the Health of the
Borough of Newport,
Isle of Wight,
for the year 1955**

BY

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**PRESENTED TO THE CORPORATION
THROUGH THEIR COMMITTEE.**

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COUNTY HALL,
NEWPORT, I.W.

*To His Worship the Mayor, and to the Aldermen and
Councillors of the Borough of Newport, Isle of Wight.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the Borough of Newport for the year 1955.

The Live Birth Rate has fallen from 14·23 to 13·03.

The Crude Death Rate is much the same at 16·3, the previous year it was 16·1.

The Still Birth Rate has risen from 17·42 to 27·2.

The Infantile Mortality Rate has risen from 17·73 to 20·0, but is still lower than the rate in 1953, when it was 22·5.

Deaths from cancer had a further fall from 41 to 39.

The number of deaths from cancer of the lung rose from 5 to 7, all in males.

The majority of deaths are caused by strokes and heart disease.

Two deaths were caused by motor accidents, and there was one case of suicide.

During the year there was a considerable outbreak of mumps and measles, but only 3 cases of poliomyelitis were notified.

There were no deaths from measles, infantile diarrhoea or poliomyelitis, but one death occurred from whooping cough.

Fifteen cases of food poisoning were notified, three of whom required treatment in hospital.

The number of new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis fell from 23 to 13.

During the year 109 samples of milk were examined for tubercle bacilli. None were found to be positive but 8 samples showed the presence of *Brucella Abortus*.

In considering the preventive factors in heart disease one must evaluate the causes, so far as is known, and apply such knowledge to preventive measures.

Heart disease due to high blood pressure is commonest in middle age and later, and there is very little difference in the sex incidence.

Of all the known factors in relation to the causation of heart disease associated with high blood pressure heredity plays perhaps the most important part.

Often many members of one family in the course of a few generations have shown various manifestations of the disease. As we are ignorant of the way in which heredity acts, although we are sure of its great significance, we are unable at the moment to do anything about it.

There is however one factor in the production of the disease about which something can be done. Overeating and obesity are frequently associated with the disease. A diet overrich in food value during and after middle age is a great potential danger. Surely here is one aspect of the cause that can and should be controlled.

It is less easy to control another known and equally potent cause of this disease, nervous strain. A life of high nervous tension favours the aggravation if not its inception. On the other hand physical effort and constant laborious work are probably protective and not aggravating factors.

Disease of the coronary arteries, the arteries that feed the muscles of the heart, is not only a very frequent and important cause of heart trouble near the end of the life cycle, but it also cripples and kills, all too frequently, in the prime of life, indeed even in youth. It is very doubtful if the coronary disease of advanced old age can ever be controlled but it is not too much to expect that distinct progress will be made in the prevention of coronary disease in the young and middle aged.

Although heart disease due to other causes has remained static more or less, since 1930, the incidence of coronary heart disease has been on the increase.

The actual cause of the disease process in the walls of the arteries feeding the heart is not known. Diet, rich in animal fats, overwork, high blood pressure, infection, heredity, etc., are all factors which have been considered to play a part.

Certainly, one of the most important factors is stress, as I emphasised in the comment on psychosomatic disorders in my last annual report.

It has been proved to the satisfaction of many medical experts that there is a correlation between excessive cigarette smoking and lung cancer. The most important point

is that smoking should never commence. Attention therefore should be focussed on the young. If a young person never begins the smoking habit he will never feel at a loss without it. It is a fact that very many children of school age smoke cigarettes. This could and should be stopped forthwith.

Tobacco does not cause actual heart disease but in susceptible persons it may cause palpitations and a rapid heart beat. In most individuals and especially those suffering from high blood pressure the blood pressure is appreciably raised. In certain people with coronary heart disease the use of tobacco has been known to precipitate or to aggravate angina pectoris.

Many of the medical grounds for pressing housing priorities are obvious such as open tuberculosis, but priorities attempted on less tangible grounds are equally important and involve, in many cases, the health of a greater number of individuals. One must recognise the adverse strain which must arise where a home is unwillingly shared and give weight to priorities advised on psychological as distinct from psychiatric grounds. It is probably true to say that less damage is done and less priority is therefore required in a home which is overcrowded or possesses a case of severe illness but where there is also love, than in a household where everyone is at odds.

Problem families continue to occupy the attention of the health department. A great deal of time, energy and patience is devoted to these cases and the Council have been most co-operative in the often very difficult task of meeting their housing needs.

It is depressing to see the amount of neglect of dental hygiene in school children, especially among children in their teens. In a great many cases the children admit to never brushing their teeth at all.

I must thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health and Housing Committees, the Public Health Inspectors and all members of the Public Health Department for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN MILLS,

Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1955.

Medical Officer of Health—

JOHN MILLS, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S. (ENG)., L.R.C.P.
(LOND.), D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Meat & Food Inspector—

F. K. AZE, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—

L. C. COOPER, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	15,530
Population (Registrar General's Figures) ...	19,190
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1955) per rate books	5,340
Rateable Value	£156,196
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£604

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population	13·03
Comparative factor	1·13
Comparative Birth Rate	14·7
Still Birth rate per 1000 total (live and still births)	27·2
Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population	16·3
Comparative factor	0·83
Comparative Death Rate	13·5
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy childbirth :—	
Rate per 1000 total (live and still births)	3·9
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—	
All infants per 1000 live births ...	20·0
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	21·0
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	39
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil

BIRTHS.

The total number of live births was 250 of which 238 were legitimate and 12 illegitimate. The live birth rate was 13·03 per 1000 living; the birth rate for England and Wales being 15·0.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths was 312 which gives a death rate of 16·3 per 1000 of the estimated resident population, the death rate for England and Wales being 11·7.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The Infantile Mortality rate was 20·0 per 1000 registered live births; the rate for England and Wales generally was 24·9.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, ETC.

Inspections under the Public Health Act	...	...	470
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	324
Drainage Inspections	...	...	282
Watershed Area	...	...	7
Camping Sites	...	...	42
Infectious Diseases	...	...	80
Knackers Yard	...	...	10
Shops Act	...	...	17
Factories	...	...	56
Food Preparation Premises	...	...	335
Food Shops and Stores	...	...	214
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	16
Ice Cream (H.T. Regs.)	...	...	4
Bakehouses	...	...	26
School Kitchens	...	...	21
Dairies	...	...	35
Pet Animal Act Premises	...	...	1
Slaughterhouses	...	...	1255
			<hr/>
			3,195
			<hr/>
Complaints received	...	...	210
Informal Notices served	...	...	174
Informal Notices complied with	...	...	142
Statutory Notices served—			
(a) Public Health Act	...	...	1
(b) Housing Act	...	...	—
Nuisances abated	...	...	73
Water Samples			
(a) Drinking Water	...	...	40
(b) Swimming Pool	...	...	4
Ice Cream Samples	...	...	28

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND
CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

In addition 3,562 tins of foodstuffs were destroyed.

1955 was the first complete year of decontrolled meat supply since the war and the four licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough handled meat for distribution throughout the Isle of Wight.

The amount of meat condemned has declined from approximately 26 tons in 1954 to 17 tons in 1955, but this decline appears to be consistent with the reduction of the number of beasts killed from 2,258 in 1954 to 1,440 in 1955, and the increase of pigs killed from 10,663 in 1954 to 14,814 in 1955. The reason for the reduced tonnage of meat condemned is probably due to the fact that pigs are more disease free at the time of slaughter than cattle.

Care is taken to ensure that condemned meat is disposed of by approved methods and snap checks are frequently made for that purpose.

There is still room for slaughterhouse improvement and it is to be hoped that the Model Byelaws for slaughterhouses to be adopted by the Council will be a further step in that direction.

FOOD PREMISES, ETC.

549 visits were made to food preparation premises, food-shops and stores. There was a steady improvement in many premises and it is to be hoped that this will continue.

15 cases of food poisoning were notified during the summer months and investigated, including all contacts. Information given by one contact led to the tracing of a female worker employed at a dairy and who was found to be carrying one of a group of virulent food poisoning organisms (*Salmonella-typhimurium*). She was immediately suspended from work and given medical treatment. Samples of faeces were then obtained for pathological examination, voluntarily, from all other persons handling milk at that dairy. The result was that a sister of the above case was found to be carrying the same organism and she too was stood off for medical treatment. None of the cases notified, or their contacts, were in fact traced to milk consumed from that dairy. It is fortunate, however, that the two carriers were traced and dealt with.

During the investigation of cases of food poisoning occurring during the summer, samples of Italian cherries were submitted for bacteriological examination but the results proved to be negative.

ICE CREAM

No of premises registered for manufacture—2.

No. of premises registered for storage and sale—79.

Samples taken	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
28	10	5	9	4
	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	

The proportion of unsatisfactory samples was high and was due to difficulties experienced by one manufacturer. Most of the 13 which failed the methylene blue test were taken at various stages of manufacture with a view to locating the fault which was eventually found and corrected.

WATER SUPPLY.

The following samples of water were taken for Bacteriological Examination during the year and the results were as follows :—

	No. of samples satisfactory	No. of samples unsatisfactory
Idlecombe Well	2	—
Bowcombe Well	15	—
Carisbrooke Well	15	—
Tap at Twenty Acres	1	—
East Orchard Bore	1	—
Tap at Victoria Recreation Ground ...	1	—
Tap at Bowcombe Hill	1	—
14 St. George's Lane	1	—
Piped ditch at Lynn Camp, Wootton		1
Tap at Ice & Cold Storage Co. ...	1	—
Highfield, Staplers		1
TOTAL	38	2

SWIMMING POOLS.

Bacteriological Samples	No. of Samples satisfactory	No. of Samples unsatisfactory
Seaclose Swimming Pool	2	—
Lakeside Swimming Pool	1	—
Pine Cabins Holiday Camp	1	—

KNACKERS YARDS

10 visits were made to the two licensed knackers yards during the year. Works to bring them up to the standard required by the Model Byelaws, Series II, are well in hand and it is expected that the necessary legislation can be implemented on completion.

DRAINAGE

Drainage work has proceeded normally throughout the year and in these days of multifarious health activities the importance of this work should not be overlooked.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE

This service was provided at a charge of £2 per cesspool.

Number of cesspools emptyings—95

Cost of emptying paid by the Council—£363

Amount recovered by the Council—£188

The number of cesspools emptied is far too low but even a subsidised service such as this will not induce some occupiers to use it.

HOUSING

In accordance with the requirements of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 the Council informed the Minister of their proposals regarding slum clearance. During the year a number of unfit houses included in the programme was dealt with, four by making closing orders and seven by demolition. In one case it was possible to accept an owner's undertaking to carry out work to make the house fit for habitation, an expediency which has much to commend it, in certain cases, in view of the continuing shortage of housing accommodation.

Lynn Camp continued to receive the close attention of the Department. Towards the end of the year, preliminary arrangements were made to deal with the remaining families and liaison with the War Department will ensure that the dwellings are demolished forthwith on vacation.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health.

PART I OF THE ACT.**INSPECTIONS.**

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	24	16	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	126	40	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	6	—	—	—
TOTAL	156	56	—	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Found	Remed'd	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	No. of Prosecutions
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	6	6	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	6	6	—	2	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT.**OUTWORKERS.**

Nature of work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Lampshades	64	—	—	—	—	—
Knitted Wear	1	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	65	—	—	—	—	—

STAFFING, PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Mr. L. C. Cooper relinquished his appointment as Additional Sanitary Inspector early in October before sailing to New Zealand to take up a similar appointment with the Napier Borough Council. The post was vacant for $6\frac{1}{2}$ months during which time the Senior Sanitary Inspector was obliged to carry on day to day sanitary administration and a heavy programme of meat inspection. This difficulty of filling appointments is not peculiar to Newport and arises in the first instance from the general shortage of recruits prepared to undertake the necessary training.

FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK AND DAIRIES) ACTS, 1944.

Samples of milk were taken during the year from herds whose milk is retailed raw without heat treatment. These samples were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Winchester, for the presence of live Tubercle Bacilli.

Number of samples taken for T.B. during the	
year 1955 	109
Number of samples found to be positive ...	Nil
Number of samples in which Brucella Abortus	8
was isolated 	

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The total number of notifications of infectious diseases, other than Tuberculosis, was 536. There were no notifications of Diphtheria.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

DURING THE YEAR 1955.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Smallpox ...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	14	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	2	—	*22
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—
Other diseases generally notifiable	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	3	—	—
Polio- Encephalitis ...	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	32	1	1
Measles ...	466	9	—
Dysentery ...	1	—	—
Malaria ...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	3	3	—
Food Poisoning ...	15	3	—
TOTALS	536	16	23

*This figure may include certain cases of Pneumonia which are not notifiable.

AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

Age.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Pneumonia.	Erysipelas.	Enteric Fever.	Food Poisoning	Polio-Encephalitis	Acute Poliomyelitis.	Meningococcal Infection.	Whooping Cough.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Measles	Dysentery
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	17	—
1 and under 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	36	—
2 " " 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	46	—
3 " " 4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	49	—
4 " " 5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	73	—
5 " " 10	9	—	—	1	—	—	3	—	2	—	15	—	229	—
10 " " 15	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	9	—
15 " " 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
20 " " 35	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
35 " " 45	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
45 " " 65	—	—	—	1	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	14	—	—	2	3	—	15	—	3	—	32	—	466	1

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

CASES.			Vision un- impaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Death.
Notified.	Treated.					
	At home	In hospital				
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS, 1955.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.					DEATHS.				
	Totals	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Totals	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
0 and under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ,, 5	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 ,, 10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 ,, 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 ,, 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 ,, 25	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 ,, 35	6	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 ,, 45	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
45 ,, 55	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 ,, 65	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—
Totals	14*	5	8	1	—	†4	3	1	—	—

*Included in this total are two patients who have been transferred from the mainland.

†Included in this total is one patient who died from another cause.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES OCCURRING IN SCHOOLS

Mumps	...	...	...	...	...	453
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	...	25
German Measles	...	...	...	...	...	3
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	...	1
						482

CAUSES OF DEATH.

<i>Cause.</i>			<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	3	1
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	—	—
Syphilitic disease	...	...	2	—
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	—	1
Meningococcal infections	...	...	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—
Measles	...	...	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases			—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...		—	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus			7	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	—	5
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	—	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	10	13
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	1	—
Diabetes	...	...	—	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system			26	26
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	16	10
Hypertension with heart disease	...		—	5
Other heart diseases	...	...	31	50
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	3	3
Influenza	...	...	2	—
Pneumonia	...	...	14	8
Bronchitis	...	...	5	7
Other diseases of respiratory system			3	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...		4	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...		—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...		—	1
Congenital malformations	...	...	1	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases			13	21
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	1	1
All other accidents	...	...	2	4
Suicide	...	...	1	—
Homicide and operations of war	...		—	—
All causes			145	167

